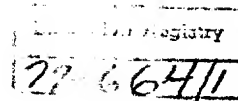


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11 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Comments of President Carter on the Intelligence Community

In the course of a restricted meeting on 9 March 1977 with the NFIB principals and other representatives of the Intelligence Community, President Carter made a number of comments, the highlights of which follow:

1. He requested that a worldwide "inventory of agents" be prepared so that he and his advisors could determine whether the geographic deployment of these individuals corresponds to his needs for intelligence information.

2. Intelligence "priorities and goals" must come from the consumers, namely the President and his principal foreign and defense policy advisors, and not from the Intelligence Community. He had examined the KIQs for 1977 and determined that they were not his most important questions. Intelligence goals and priorities must reflect the true needs of the President and the NSC. He is, however, open to suggestions from anyone as to how to support agreed upon goals. The President stated that the Intelligence Community should receive better guidance from the users of intelligence. He also wished to have broader distribution of relevant intelligence to other departments such as Treasury and Agriculture.

3. While satisfied with other categories of intelligence reporting, he is disappointed with the information on the assessments of political trends and intentions in foreign countries. He requested that the Intelligence Community place greater emphasis on political analysis of foreign developments. Otherwise, he is impressed with the professional competence of the Community and the quality of its production.

4. The President expressed complete confidence in Admiral Turner whom he has charged with the mission of closely coordinating all elements of the Intelligence Community, including



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the development of procedures for rapid conversion of the Intelligence Community from peacetime to wartime status in the event of such a contingency. Admiral Turner has been given all the authority he requires to bring together previously autonomous intelligence components. In this connection, he wanted it understood that Admiral Turner is not merely the "titular head" but he is the head" of the Intelligence Community.

5. He felt that the Executive Order on intelligence issued by President Ford had started the Intelligence Community moving toward closer coordination. In due course, however, the Executive Order would have to be reassessed and strengthened.

6. The President is concerned about the large number of people in and out of the Executive Branch who have access to sensitive intelligence information. Too many committees and Members of Congress are exposed to sensitive intelligence information and he has expressed his concern to the congressional leaders whose reaction has been encouraging. He would like to see a reduction in the number of congressional committees exposed to this information but he cannot guarantee that he will be successful. There is "too much laxity" in the handling of sensitive intelligence. Before information is circulated, the identity of the source must be separated from the substantive information. The President specifically cited the need for "more stringent compartmentation."

7. In response to a comment from Admiral Turner, who said it was important that the President receive divergent views on important issues, Dr. Brzezinski said he did not believe the President was receiving divergent views.

8. The President assured the group that he will speak out publicly, as he has already done, in support of the Intelligence Community and he will try whenever possible to give public credit to intelligence. He recognizes that the excesses of the past were largely due to orders from higher levels. For the future, however, improprieties and illegalities must be avoided. If any mistakes are made they should be reported immediately to Admiral Turner and the President so that appropriate officials, including the President, can decide how to handle the matter and whether a private or public accounting is necessary. If delayed revelations of concealed illegalities or improprieties occur, the damage to the Intelligence Community would be "irreparable."

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1. He requested that a worldwide "inventory of agents" be prepared so that he and his advisors could determine whether the deployment of these individuals corresponds to his needs for intelligence information.
2. Intelligence "priorities and goals" must come from the consumers, namely the President and his principal foreign and defense policy advisors, and not from the Intelligence Community. He had examined the KIQs for 1977 and determined that he does not agree with the priorities listed therein. As President, he differs with the collection requirements listed in the KIQs. We must therefore reassess these intelligence goals and priorities, but he is open to suggestions from anyone as to how to support agreed upon goals.
3. While satisfied with other categories of intelligence reporting, he is disappointed with the information on and assessments

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of political trends and intentions in foreign countries. He requested that the Intelligence Community place greater emphasis on political analysis of foreign developments. Otherwise, he is impressed with the professional competence of the Community and the quality of its production.

4. He instructed that procedures be developed for rapid conversion of the Intelligence Community from peacetime to wartime status in the event of such a contingency.

5. The President expressed complete confidence in Admiral Turner whom he has charged with the mission of closely coordinating all elements of the Intelligence Community. Admiral Turner will be expected to bring together all previously autonomous intelligence components. In this connection he wanted it understood that Admiral Turner is not merely the "titular head" but he "is the head" of the Intelligence Community.

6. He felt that the Executive Order on intelligence issued by President Ford had started the Intelligence Community moving toward closer coordination. In due course, however, the Executive Order would have to be reassessed and strengthened.

7. The President is concerned about the large number of people in and out of the Executive Branch who have access to sensitive intelligence information. For example, too many people know about Kennen. There is "too much laxity" in the handling of sensitive intelligence. Before information is circulated, the identity of the source must be separated from the substantive information.

8. In response to a comment from Mr. Brzezinski, the President stated he did not feel he was receiving "divergent views" on intelligence matters. He requested that, when appropriate, divergent views be made known to him, even in the PDB.

9. The President assured the group that he will speak out publicly, as he has already done, in support of the Intelligence Community and he will try whenever possible to give public credit to intelligence. He recognizes that the excesses of the past were largely due to orders from higher levels. For the future, however, improprieties and illegalities must be avoided. If any mistakes are made they should be reported immediately to Admiral Turner and the President so that appropriate officials, including the President, can decide how to handle the matter and whether a private or public accounting is necessary. If delayed revelations of concealed illegalities or improprieties occur, the damage to the Intelligence Community could be "irreparable."

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